

Press Release Index 2007

June

- 1 ChoicePoint Adopts Safeguards to Protect Consumer Information
- 1 Bertrand Man Sentenced to 30-35 Years For Sexual Assault of Niece
- 5 Guest Column: Cyberstalking Law is Bad News for Online Predators
- 8 *Consumer News* Do Discount Healthcare Plans Save Money?
- 11 Bruning Provides \$3,000 for Environmental Education to Middle Republican
Natural Resources District
- 13 8th Circuit Court Affirms Dismissal of California Alternative High School Case
- 15 Bruning Secures Conviction in Pawnee County Homicide
- 15 Guest Column: Discount Health Plans Aren't Insurance Plans
- 20 Alliance Man Given 45-50 Years in Prison for Sexual Assault of Step-Daughter
- 20 Bruning Elected Vice President of National Association of Attorneys General
- 22 Bruning Warns Consumers About Latest Sweepstakes Fraud
- 22 Guest Column: Violence Against Women Funding a Big Win for Nebraska
Domestic Violence and Abuse Victims
- 25 Bruning Applauds U.S. Supreme Court's Ruling on Key Environmental Laws
- 25 ***MEDIA ADVISORY*** Bruning to Speak at AMBER Alert Workshop
- 26 ***MEDIA ADVISORY*** Bruning to Speak at Central Nebraska Public
Power and Irrigation District
- 27 Bruning Provides Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District \$75,000
for Invasive Species Removal
- 29 ***MEDIA ADVISORY*** Bruning to Speak At Veterans Appreciation Day

June 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>ChoicePoint Adopts Safeguard to protect cosn. Info- Man sentenced 30-35 for sexual assault</i>	2
3	4	5 <i>Guest Column: Cyberstalking Law is Bad News for Online Predators</i>	6	7	8 <i>*CN* Do Discount Healthcare Plans Save Money?</i>	9
10	11 <i>\$3,000 provided for Environmental Ed to Middle Republican NRD</i>	12	13 <i>8th Circuit dismisses California Alt. HS Case</i>	14	15 <i>Bruning secures Conviction in Pawnee County Homicide Guest Column: Discount Health Plans</i>	16
17	18	19	20 <i>Bruning elected VP of NAAG Alliance Man 45-50 Years for Sexual Assault</i>	21	22 <i>Bruning Warns Consumers About Latest Sweepstakes Fraud Guest Column: Violence Against Women</i>	23
24	25 <i>Applauds U.S. Supreme Cts ruling on Environmental Laws *MA* Amber Alert</i>	26 <i>*MA* Central Public Power and Irrigation District</i>	27 <i>CNPPID \$75,000 for Invasive Species Removal</i>	28	29 <i>*MA* JB to speak at Veterans Appreciation Day</i>	30



Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2007, 10:00 am CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Bruning to Speak at Veterans Appreciation Day
at 2 p.m., at Gates of Praise Church,
740 N. 70th St., in Lincoln
SUNDAY, JULY 1**

(Lincoln) Attorney General Jon Bruning will speak at a Veterans Appreciation Day, featuring the Patriot Guard Riders, on Sunday, July 1, at 2 p.m., at Gates of Praise Church, 740 N. 70th St., in Lincoln, Neb.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2007, 2:45pm MST

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Provides Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District \$75,000 for Invasive Species Removal

(Ogallala, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today presented \$75,000 to the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID) for invasive species removal at Lake McConaughy.

The money was made available through the Attorney General's Environmental Court Ordered Settlement Fund, a fund generated from voluntary payments collected in court-approved settlements from entities that have violated state and federal environmental regulations.

"The health of Lake McConaughy is crucial to Nebraska's economic strength," Bruning said. "Non-native plants crowd natural plants and consume large amounts of water. Removing them means more water for Nebraskans."

CNPPID and Nebraska Game and Parks have also pledged funding for the CNPPID invasive species removal project.

The CNPPID was created in 1933 to serve south-central Nebraska electrical power development and irrigation needs. The agency provides irrigation for over 223,000 acres along the Platte River.

###

An audio clip about the presentation is posted on the Attorney General's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2007, 11:00am CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt

402.471.2067

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Bruning to Speak to Central Nebraska Public
Power and Irrigation District at 1:30 p.m.,
Hilltop Inn Restaurant, Lake McConaughy
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27**

(Lincoln) Attorney General Jon Bruning will speak to the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District about invasive species at Lake McConaughy on Wednesday, June 27, at 1:30 p.m., at the Hilltop Inn Restaurant at Lake McConaughy.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 2007, 4:45 pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Bruning to Speak at AMBER Alert Workshop
at 10 A.M. MDT, at the Nebraska State Patrol
Headquarters, 4500 Avenue I in Scottsbluff
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27**

(Lincoln) Attorney General Jon Bruning will speak to law enforcement officers and broadcasters participating in an AMBER Alert training workshop on Wednesday, June 27, at 10 a.m., at the Nebraska State Patrol Headquarters, 4500 Avenue I, in Scottsbluff.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 2007 3:15pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Applauds U.S. Supreme Court's Ruling on Key Environmental Laws

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today applauded a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that balances key state responsibilities under the Clean Water Act with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

In February, Bruning led a coalition of twelve states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as amici curiae (or friends of the court) in arguing in favor of the balanced approach adopted by the Supreme Court today. The Court's opinion limits the reach of the Endangered Species Act and insures that states retain authority to regulate water quality within their borders without additional restrictions.

"The Clean Water Act establishes a cooperative program between the states and the federal government that allows states to regulate and protect their water quality," Bruning said. "The lower court decision allowed the Endangered Species Act to override Congress' desire for local control. We could not accept that threat to state rights."

"I am very pleased the Court adopted our approach. There is no reason these laws cannot be read in harmony. This opinion provides a common sense application of the Endangered Species Act."

In 2003, environmental groups challenged in court an Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to transfer authority to regulate water pollution to the State of Arizona under the Clean Water Act. The groups claimed the Endangered Species Act trumps all other federal laws.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the environmental groups that the Endangered Species Act imposed additional requirements not included in the Clean Water Act, and federal regulation of water pollution was necessary.

In reversing the lower court decision, the Supreme Court today agreed with the EPA and the states led by Nebraska that, once the express requirements of the Clean Water Act are met, the EPA is obligated to transfer regulatory authority to the state, and nothing in the Endangered Species Act changes that obligation. Nebraska was delegated regulatory authority under the act in 1974.

###



JON BRUNING

Attorney General of Nebraska

Guest Column: June 22, 2007

Contact: Holley Hatt, 402-471-2067

**Violence Against Women Funding a Big Win for
Nebraska Domestic Violence and Abuse Victims
By Attorney General Jon Bruning**

Attorney General Jon Bruning today warned consumers about a new type of sweepstakes fraud that lists false sponsorships to deceive consumers into participating.

The sweepstakes notice contains the logo of Virgin Mobile USA, a cellular phone company in England. However, an inquiry by the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division found Virgin Mobile is not involved in the sweepstakes.

The scam notifies consumers by mail that they are winners in a sweepstakes contest that appears to be sponsored by Virgin Mobile and several other legitimate businesses, including McDonald's, Wal-Mart, Pizza Hut, Sears, Budget Rent A Car, and Gap. The letter states that the consumer has won tens of thousands of dollars in the contest, but must pay a "clearance fee" to receive the prize because the award money is bonded. A check from one of the sponsors is enclosed in the letter to cover the costs of the clearance fee. The consumer is instructed to deposit the check and send the money back to the sweepstakes organizers. The check is fraudulent, and consumers lose the money they send.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division immediately contacted sponsors listed on the letter. The companies confirmed they are not associated with the sweepstakes contest. When contacted by the Attorney General's office, one business "sponsor" learned checks for up to \$4,720 were being written from one of its bank accounts. The account has been closed.

"If it seems too good to be true, it probably is," Bruning said. "Nebraskans work too hard for their money to lose it in a scam. Being skeptical and researching an opportunity is the best way to avoid falling victim."

Consumers are advised to look for these warning signs of sweepstakes fraud: 1) you are notified that you've won a contest you did not enter; 2) you are asked to pay money to receive your free prize or award. This includes fees for shipping and handling and gift taxes; 3) you are sent a check to cover the costs for receiving your prize; 4) you are pressured to make an immediate decision or keep your "winnings" a secret from family and friends; 5) a mailing is sent to you at the bulk mail postage rate, but is marked "urgent" or "priority mail"; 6) you are being contacted by a business or lottery in another country.

Consumers who believe they are victims of sweepstakes fraud should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division toll-free at (800)727-6432 or file a complaint online at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 22, 2007 10:00am CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Warns Consumers About Latest Sweepstakes Fraud

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today warned consumers about a new type of sweepstakes fraud that lists false sponsorships to deceive consumers into participating.

The sweepstakes notice contains the logo of Virgin Mobile USA, a cellular phone company in England. However, an inquiry by the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division found Virgin Mobile is not involved in the sweepstakes.

The scam notifies consumers by mail that they are winners in a sweepstakes contest that appears to be sponsored by Virgin Mobile and several other legitimate businesses, including McDonald's, Wal-Mart, Pizza Hut, Sears, Budget Rent A Car, and Gap. The letter states that the consumer has won tens of thousands of dollars in the contest, but must pay a "clearance fee" to receive the prize because the award money is bonded. A check from one of the sponsors is enclosed in the letter to cover the costs of the clearance fee. The consumer is instructed to deposit the check and send the money back to the sweepstakes organizers. The check is fraudulent, and consumers lose the money they send.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division immediately contacted sponsors listed on the letter. The companies confirmed they are not associated with the sweepstakes contest. When contacted by the Attorney General's office, one "sponsor" learned checks for up to \$4,720 were being written from one of its bank accounts. The account has been closed.

"If it seems too good to be true, it probably is," Bruning said. "Nebraskans work too hard for their money to lose it in a scam. Being skeptical and researching an opportunity is the best way to avoid falling victim."

Consumers are advised to look for these warning signs of sweepstakes fraud: 1) you are notified that you've won a contest you did not enter; 2) you are asked to pay money to receive your free prize or award. This includes fees for shipping and handling and gift taxes; 3) you are sent a check to cover the costs for receiving your prize; 4) you are pressured to make an immediate decision or keep your "winnings" a secret from family and friends; 5) a mailing is sent to you at the bulk mail postage rate, but is marked "urgent" or "priority mail"; 6) you are being contacted by a business or lottery in another country.

Consumers who believe they are victims of sweepstakes fraud should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division toll-free at (800)727-6432 or file a complaint online at www.ago.state.ne.us.

###

An audio clip about sweepstakes fraud is posted on the Attorney General's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2007 2:30pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Elected Vice President of National Association of Attorneys General

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today was elected vice president of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) at the organization's quarterly meeting in Atlanta.

"Protecting our families and children is a nationwide effort, and our state attorneys general are on the frontlines," Bruning said. "When we get together to share ideas and experiences, we make our home states safer."

As vice president, Bruning will sit on the NAAG executive committee. The position is in the line of succession for presidency of the organization.

NAAG facilitates interaction among Attorneys General. The organization coordinates state-federal working groups, plans and provides continuing legal education for state lawyers, and serves as a liaison between state attorneys general and the federal government.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2007 2:00pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Alliance Man Given 45 to 50 Years in Prison for Sexual Assault of Step-daughter

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that Dennis Hernandez, 36, of Alliance, was sentenced to consecutive sentences of 45 to 50 years in prison for first degree sexual assault of a child and 20 months to five years in prison for visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct. He was sentenced today in Box Butte County District Court.

“Mr. Hernandez has a sick habit, and he used his step-daughter to satisfy it,” Bruning said. “Our kids are safer now that he’s behind bars, and he’ll be there for a long time.”

On Feb. 13, 2006, Alliance Police seized Hernandez’s computer from his home while responding to a domestic disturbance call. Hernandez and his wife had been fighting over e-mails she discovered from Hernandez to her daughter. The e-mails contained sexually explicit language and references to sexual activity between the father and step-daughter since the girl was 12. In addition, investigators found child pornography on Hernandez’s computer and evidence that he had paid to access several child pornographic Web sites.

On April 3, Hernandez pleaded guilty to the charges. First degree sexual assault of a child is a class II felony, and visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct is a class IV felony.

Box Butte County Attorney K.J. Hutchinson and the Attorney General’s Criminal Bureau Chief John Freudenberg handled the case.

###



Guest Column: June 15, 2007

Contact: Holley Hatt, 402-471-2067

Discount Health Plans Aren't Insurance Plans By Attorney General Jon Bruning

We're all looking for ways to avoid high medical bills. But don't let the promise of cheap monthly rates for health coverage lure you into a health plan that you'll regret.

Discount healthcare plans are usually pitched in advertisements, by fax, or over the phone. They promise "family health coverage" for a low price (often \$89.95 per month.) Usually, these programs are targeted to people who do not have health insurance through their employers.

But, a discount health program is NOT insurance. They do not pay medical benefits. Instead, they negotiate discounts with medical providers, and you are responsible for paying the entire bill.

When considering a discount health program, remember:

- The actual discount (the amount you save) is not generally known when you enroll in the plan. Claims of discounts "up to 60%" are not guarantees.
- Providers may stop participating in the discount program at any time.
- A discount is usually dependent upon immediate payment at the time of service. Your provider may negotiate similar discounts without membership in a discount plan.

Tips to follow before purchasing a discount health plan:

- Research the business either by visiting the **Better Business Bureau** Web site (www.bbb.org), calling the BBB in Omaha at **(402)391-7535**.
- Don't be in a hurry to sign a contract.
- Ask for a copy of the plan with all benefits detailed in writing.
- Contact your doctor and pharmacy to make sure they are participating providers.
- Verify the actual amount of the savings you will receive.
- Ask who you should contact if you experience a problem.
- Find out the procedure for canceling your membership, and if any portion of your payment is non-refundable.

For more information about discount healthcare plans, contact our Consumer Protection Division, toll free at (800) 727-6432 or by visiting our Web site at www.ago.ne.gov.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 15, 2007 4:00pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Secures Conviction in Pawnee County Homicide

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced Patrick Schroeder, 29, of Dubois was convicted of first degree murder, use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony and forgery in Richardson County District Court. The case was transferred to Richardson County after a jury in Pawnee County failed to reach a unanimous verdict.

"Mr. Schroeder is a cold-blooded killer who belongs in prison," Bruning said. "This conviction finally puts an end to a troubling year for the residents of Pawnee County."

On April 14, 2006, Schroeder murdered his former employer, Kenneth Albers of Pawnee City, while attempting to rob him at his home. Albers died of blunt force trauma to the head. Albers' body was later found in an abandoned well on Albers' property southwest of Pawnee City.

The forgery charges stem from an April 10 incident when Schroeder stole a checkbook from Albers, forged Albers' signature on a check, and cashed it.

Schroeder's sentencing hearing will be held at 9 a.m. on Aug. 13, in Pawnee County District Court. First degree murder is a class I felony, punishable by life in prison without the possibility of parole. The other counts, use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony and forgery, are class III felonies, and each carry sentences of one to 20 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

Assistant Attorneys General Doug Warner and Jeff Gaertig are handling the case.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 13, 2007 4:45pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

8th Circuit Court Affirms Dismissal of California Alternative High School Case

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the dismissal of a lawsuit California Alternative High School (CAHS) Principal Daniel Gossai filed against Nebraska officials.

Gossai filed the federal civil lawsuit in response to an action Nebraska filed against CAHS in state court. Nebraska's lawsuit alleged CAHS violated Nebraska's consumer protection laws in a fraudulent education scheme.

"This lawsuit was nothing more than Mr. Gossai's attempt to thwart our action in state court, and I'm pleased with the 8th Circuit's ruling," Bruning said. "The fact remains: CAHS is a scam. It preys on Nebraska consumers who are trying to better their lives."

In February, the Douglas County District Court ordered CAHS and Gossai to pay a total of \$6,250 in restitution to 18 Nebraska consumers and \$18,000 in civil penalties to Nebraska. In March, Gossai appealed the ruling to the Nebraska Court of Appeals.

The restitution order resulted from a permanent injunction entered in March 2005 at the request of the Attorney General. In the injunction, the Douglas County District Court found that Gossai and CAHS violated Nebraska's Deceptive Trade Practices Act and Consumer Protection Act by falsely representing that its courses and 'diplomas' were legitimate and would enable students to gain admittance to accredited institutions.

The 2005 permanent injunction remains in effect, and CAHS and Gossai are barred from operating any course of study using the words 'high school' or 'diploma' in Nebraska, unless it complies with state education laws. It also prohibits the company from implying in written or oral communication that a person could gain admittance to an accredited college or university upon completion of the courses.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 2007, 9:30a.m. CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Provides \$3,000 for Environmental Education to Middle Republican Natural Resources District

(McCook, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning presented \$3,000 for environmental education efforts to the Middle Republican Natural Resources District (NRD) today in McCook.

The money was made available through the Attorney General's Environmental Court Ordered Settlement Fund. The fund is comprised of voluntary payments collected in court-approved settlements from entities that have violated state and federal environmental regulations.

"The NRDs are an important provider of environmental education in the state, particularly for our children," Bruning said. "Supporting their work is an investment in the health and well-being of future generations of Nebraskans."

Nebraska NRDs currently provide numerous environmental education programs, including educator workshops, the Leopold Education Project, Project Wild, Natural Resources Educator of the Year and many others. The Middle Republican NRD also hosts the Conservation Craze in Curtis, Neb., for 5th-graders, range and land judging contests for high school students, and the Seedlings for Schools Arbor Day program.

The Middle Republican NRD includes 2,459,520 acres in Frontier, Hayes, Hitchcock, Lincoln and Red Willow counties.

###

[<Back](#) [Print](#)

Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning

Consumer News

June 8, 2007

Do Discount Healthcare Plans Save Money?

We're all looking for ways to avoid high medical bills. But don't let the promise of cheap monthly rates for health coverage lure you into a decision you might regret.

Discount healthcare plans are usually pitched in advertisements, by fax, or over the phone. The plans promise "family health coverage" for a low price (often \$89.95 per month.) Usually, these programs are targeted to people who do not have health insurance through their employers.

But, a discount health program is **NOT** insurance. It does not pay medical benefits. Instead, the program benefit is to negotiate discounts with medical providers, and consumers are responsible for paying the remainder of the bill at the time of service. In some cases, the plans are scams, and the consumers receive no benefits for their money.

When considering a discount health program, remember:

- The actual discount is not generally known when you enroll in the plan. Claims of discounts "up to 60%" are not guarantees.
- Providers may stop participating in the discount program at any time.
- A discount is usually dependent upon immediate payment at the time of service. Your provider may be willing to negotiate similar discounts without membership in a discount plan.

Tips to follow before purchasing a discount health plan:

- Research the business either by visiting the **Better Business Bureau** Web site at www.bbb.org, or by calling the BBB in Omaha at (402) 391-7535.
- Call the **Nebraska Department of Insurance** at (877) 564-7323 if you have questions about a business contacting you.
- Don't be in a hurry to sign a contract.
- Ask for a copy of the plan with all benefits detailed in writing before you pay any enrollment fees.

- Contact your doctor and pharmacy to make sure they are participating providers.
- Verify the actual amount of the savings you will receive.
- Find out the procedure for canceling your membership, and if any portion of your payment is non-refundable.

For more information about discount healthcare plans, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, toll free at (800) 727-6432 or visit our Web site at www.ago.ne.gov.

Best wishes,



Jon Bruning
Attorney General of Nebraska

For more information, contact:
Consumer Protection Division
Nebraska Attorney General's Office
Toll Free: 1.800.727.6432
Email: nedoj@ago.ne.gov

En Espanol:
1.888.850.7555
Llamada gratuita en Nebraska
Senior Outreach Hotline:
1.888.287.0778
Web site: www.ago.ne.gov

[Forward email](#)

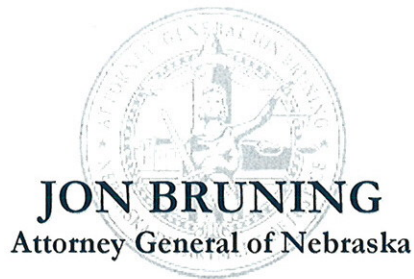
✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to holley.hatt@ago.ne.gov, by nedoj@ago.ne.gov
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Attorney General's Office | 2115 State Capitol | Lincoln | NE | 68509



Guest Column: June 5, 2007

Contact: Holley Hatt, 402-471-2067

Cyberstalking Law is Bad News for Online Predators
By Attorney General Jon Bruning

Last week, legislators delivered a big blow to Internet predators by passing LB 142, the cyberstalking bill.

Under the bill, it is illegal for adults over 18 to knowingly send sexually explicit language and material by computer, text messages or other communication devices to victims under 16. Those who do are guilty of a class IV felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Prior to this legislation, no specific crime for sending sexually explicit material to minors existed. I knew Nebraska could do better, which is why I included LB 142 in my legislative package.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates one in seven children who regularly use the Internet is sexually solicited, and one in 11 is harassed or threatened.

If you don't think it happens in Nebraska, I'm here to tell you it does. Last year, I participated in a Nebraska State Patrol demonstration. An officer, posing as a young Nebraska girl, got online at 10 a.m. Within 15 seconds, three men using Web cams had sent sexual photos and videos of themselves to the "girl".

Predators have gone high-tech. Thanks to the Legislature and State Senator Mike Friend, who introduced the bill, we have the right tools to fight them.

We'll continue doing everything we can to put sexual predators behind bars where they can't hurt our children, but education is our best defense. For more information on Internet Safety, contact our office toll free at (800) 727-6432 or by visit our Web site at www.safekids.ne.gov.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2007 5:00pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bertrand Man Sentenced to 30-35 Years For Sexual Assault of Niece

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that Dale Hoffman, 29, formerly of Bertrand, Neb., was sentenced to 30 to 35 years in prison for first degree sexual assault of a child. The sentencing occurred today in Phelps County District Court.

“Mr. Hoffman was a trusted family member to this little girl, and he abused that trust in the most sickening way,” Bruning said. “Our children are safer when he’s behind bars, and this sentence ensures he’ll be there for a long time.”

A Phelps County Sheriff Department and Nebraska State Patrol investigation determined Hoffman coerced his 10-year-old niece to perform sexual acts with him. The assaults occurred while she was left in his care between June and September of 2005. He watched her after school and on various occasions. The victim is now 11 years old.

After a warrant was issued for his arrest in Nebraska, Hoffman fled to West Covina, Calif. where he was arrested on Oct. 14, 2005.

On April 6, Hoffman pleaded no contest to sexual assault of a child, a class II felony.

Phelps County Attorney Tim Hoeft and the Assistant Attorney General Randy Stoll handled the case.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2007 4:00pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

ChoicePoint Adopts Safeguards to Protect Consumer Information

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced a settlement with Georgia-based ChoicePoint, Inc., the nation's largest data broker. The settlement resolves allegations that the company failed to adequately maintain the privacy and security of consumers' personal information, including 572 Nebraskans.

"Through no fault of their own, Nebraskans' identities were compromised," Bruning said. "This settlement sends an important message to companies – if you collect personal information on consumers, you have a responsibility to keep it from falling into the wrong hands."

ChoicePoint provides identification and credential verification services to businesses, government and nonprofit organizations. In February 2005, ChoicePoint announced that individuals posing as legitimate businesses gained access to consumers' personal information. Bruning, along with 37 other attorneys general, wrote ChoicePoint, demanding the company notify the 145,000 consumers nationwide whose information may have been accessed.

As part of the settlement with 43 states and Washington, D.C., ChoicePoint will make significant, ongoing changes in the way that the company credentials new customers who have access to consumer information. It will be the first data broker to apply the same safeguards it uses to protect financial information to protecting consumers' personal information. ChoicePoint will pay \$500,000 to the states. Nebraska will receive \$5,500 for attorneys' fees.

In a January 2006 settlement with ChoicePoint, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) required that ChoicePoint improve its process for accepting clients that obtain information from credit reports. The state settlement goes farther by requiring the company to improve its credentialing process for clients that obtain Social Security numbers and other forms of personally sensitive information. ChoicePoint also paid \$5 million into a fund for consumer redress in the FTC settlement.

###